1892. Letters From North Dakota Farmers. 1892.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GREAT HARD SPRING WHEAT BELT, FEBRUARY 10, 1892.

SECOND SERIES. SECOND SERIES.

NORTH DAKOTA

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL STATE.

The Annual Report for 1891 of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the State Shows the Following Large Yields of All Crops

NORTH DAKOTA CROPS IN 1891:

64,719,328 Bushels Wheat on 2,865,502 Acres.

17,871,528	"	Oats	" 420,154 "
5,270,685	"	Barley	" 143,868 "
1,241,018	"	Flax	" 108,618 "
4,496,000	"	Potatoes	" 19,560 "

With an Average Yield Per Acre for the State of 22.58 bu. of Wheat, 42.54 bu. of Oats, 36.76 bu. of Barley, 11.64 bu. of Flax, 178.61 bu. of Potatoes.

North Dakota is Almost Exclusively an Agricultural State, and Considering the Fact that it is a New State and its Population Limited in Number, being 182,719 by the U. S. Census of 1890, the Magnificent Crops of the Past Season are Hardly Paralleled by a Comparatively Small Number of Farmers.

With Only a Small Portion of the Arable Land of the State Under Cultivation in 1891, the Farmers of North Dakota Secured

$50,000,000 For Their Wheat Crop Alone.

The Wheat Crop Last Season Provided the Sum of $275 for Every Man, Woman and Child in the State.

SCARCITY OF FARM HELP.

The Yield of Grain Was So Large and Rapid that Help Could Not be Obtained to Harvest and Thresh All of the Crops to Advantage.

Upwards of 11,000 Farm Hands and 322 Steam Threshing Machines from Adjoining States were Employed in North Dakota During the Fall, and the Railroads into the Great Hard Spring Wheat Belt to Harvest and Thresh the Grain, and Yet the Supply of Help Was Not Adequate, Although Wages Ranged as High as $40.00 and as Low as $30.00 a Day With Food.

Efficient, also,

FARMERS AS A SOCIAL BODY.

They Have Made Rapid Progress in Every Direction During the Past Season than the Total Valuation of Their Farms, Teams and Machinery, and Those Having Larger Acreage Made Fortunes in a Single Year.

FARM HANDS WANTED.

Lack of Help to Secure Farming Operations Last Autumn that Much of the Large Crop Remained Out in the Fields Till Spring. The Extreme Rains Have Placed the Ground in Good Condition and Every Acre that Can be Prepared Will be Planted in the Spring, and There Will be a Great Demand for Farm Hands.

The Following Letters from North Dakota Farmers Verify These Statements. They Show When and How These Farmers Settled in North Dakota a Few Years Ago, What They Have Done, and How They Have Succeeded in Making Homes for Their Families and in Making Themselves Independent.

LETTERS FROM FARMERS IN NORTH DAKOTA. 1801 AND 1802.

THIS PAPER is mainly devoted to the publication of letters from farmers residing in various counties in the central and western portions of North Dakota situated along the Northern Pacific Railroad and its branch lines. The letters recite the experience and the progress made by the writers in opening farms on new prairie lands, raising cattle, sheep and horses, and building for themselves new homes. They contain much that will be found serviceable and suggestive to intending settlers. Some of the letters published in this paper appeared in a folder issued a year ago and are hereby republished, together with supplemental statements furnished by the writers, giving the result of their farming operations in 1891. If anyone wishes further information concerning any statement made, the writers of these letters will be pleased to furnish it. This paper is also printed in the German, Swedish and Norwegian languages. The following is a brief description of the new State of North Dakota:

NORTH DAKOTA.

ITS ADVANTAGES FOR FARMING.

NORTH DAKOTA has entered upon a new era of remarkable prosperity. The great agricultural state, according to the annual report of the state commissioner of agriculture for the year 1891, produced 64,719,328 bushels hard spring wheat, and its average yield to the acre cultivated was given at 22.58 bushels. When we take into consideration that this enormous crop was produced by the farmers in a total population of about 180,000, the result is unparalleled in the history of agriculture in the United States. People unfamiliar with the climate of North Dakota may imagine this product to be wholly exceptional, and that a repetition of such a yield will seldom occur. This, however, is an error. In the Red River valley of the northern portion of the state the most remarkable uniformity of crops has been secured, and the extended over a period of seven years. The average yield of wheat for that section of the state has been ultimately was comparatively insignificant, nevertheless it proved of great value in securing success to the early settlers of the North Dakota settlers attracted many thousands of new settlers to the state, and the experience of these settlers affords an excellent reason for believing that the big crops of 1891 were not the result of luck or lucky yields. The soil is not exhausted, on the contrary, is in better condition for producing wheat than when first turned. In fact many fields which have been cultivated for a number of years produce more wheat to the acre than when first broken. The subsoil underlying the surface soil is of the same character as the surface soil. The physical conditions are such that moisture is retained in the subsoil during the winter months, and this moisture is brought to the surface by capillary attraction during the growing season. The practical results of the great crop of 1891 were to place the farmers of North Dakota solidly upon their feet financially, and many of them had money steadily in the years of hardship. The first thing that a farmer does after getting to be settled on their condition, taking with them as a rule hardly enough money to put up their buildings and to provide themselves with necessary implements. They have had to make a start under indebtedness and to get their farms into good shape with the proceeds of their crops. Those who have been so situated are well or better than those of the older states. Now the great crop of 1891 enables the farmers to clear off their indebtedness, build their buildings and buy new machinery. In thousands of cases the net profits of the crop of 1891 are sufficient to purchase, in addition, a fair allowance for the labor of the farmer himself and his family, a valuation of the value of the farm at the end of seven months. It is safe to say that three-are few, if any, regions on the globe where the soil is so productive as in the Red River valley, and upon which it is raised and all improvements placed upon it. The prosperous condition of North Dakota farmers has become widely known throughout the East and especially through the state of Minnesota, and a large number of people are seeking information concerning the character of the new prairie state with the view of locating in it. The fact that those who are in farming in North Dakota is best told in the language of the farmers of that state. These letters come from both the older and newer portions of the state, and from every county. Americans born and foreign born, men with much previous experience in farming and with little or no experience. They show conclusively how feasible it is for industrious and thrifty people to establish themselves independent in a few years upon the rich soil of the Northwestern prairies. Some additional information concerning the character and resources of the state will be found in the paper given below.

The most interesting fact in intending settlers is the large areas of good unoccupied prairie lands adapted to general farming and stock raising which can still be found in North Dakota. The state had a population in 1890, according to U. S. census, of 182,719, and it is estimated, now has a population of about 200,000, but such a small number in a territory as populous as 1,000,000 without developing any considerable industry; that is to say, a purely agricultural population is a sparse population and is not a rich, happy and comfortable support upon its lands. In the eastern portion of the state, especially in the Red River valley, the country is comparatively well settled and there are no free lands left for homesteading. Settlers who desire to go into that region, however, will find no difficulty in purchasing land on very easy terms. West of the Red River Valley, in central North Dakota, there is a large amount of fine government land open to homestead entry, and still further west beyond the Missouri river, probably nine-tenths of the area of the state is still unoccupied. West of the James River Valley a very large part of the land comprised in the Northern Pacific Railroad grant, which extends for 50 miles on each side of the main line of the railroad, is still in the hands of the railroad company, and is offered for sale on long time and at low prices.

The second point of special interest to intending settlers is the health conditions of the new state. North Dakota has ever been in place his family in an unhealthy location, however rapid he can make improvements. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company need be found in any part of North Dakota; the whole state enjoys remarkably healthful, invigorating and stimulating climate, due to a higher snowfall than Pennsylvania or Ohio, or than Iowa or Nebraska, and to much less rain. In Michigan and Wisconsin the malarious are rare, and there is a greater deal of bright sunshine all the winter months; pleasant sunny days continue to the middle of March or the first of April, when winter leaks up by endeavor, so that the spring does not set in until April. There is no season of muddy roads; as soon as the snow goes off the rain and wind dry the surface of the soil so that the wheeling is good. The summer heats are not as severe as in the more southern states of the Union, as the temperature is by the breezes, while the nights are invariably comfortable.

Still another important advantage of North Dakota is its abundant railway facilities. Settlers can find hundreds of thousands of acres of good land practically within a few miles of lines of railway stations. The pioneering days are over; there are no hardships to endure; the settler who now comes into the state will find towns, churches and schools already established. The state is no longer the "Far West," it is in fact almost in the center between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The mid-way point between New York City and Tacoma, Wash., is in Northern Minnesota, only a few miles east of the North Dakota line. The principal towns of North Dakota are reached by a railway journey of four hours from the city cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, which have a combined population of over 300,000 and form one of the largest railway centers in the United States. The farm products of North Dakota find their markets in those cities, and the large shipping points of South Dakota and Superior, at the head of Lake Superior, whence more wheat is now shipped than from Duluth.

The standing settler, who has heard a great deal of the prosperity of the Red River valley, and concludes he must go there to join in it, is very well occupied that the remainder of the state does not offer good inducements to immigrants. Settlement is naturally most rapid in the more populous portions of the state first. The rolling prairies in the James River Valley, stretching for 100 miles east of the Missouri river, is one of the richest farming regions in the world, and is still sparsely settled. In addition you can secure in this region improved farms at low prices by purchasing additional land. Still further west is what is known as "Dakota" proper, or the Missouri slope. Settlement has been slow in this region, but it is now coming on rapidly. Many farmers who have settled in Minnesota and Iowa are now moving to Western North Dakota, which includes the region west of the Missouri river, is greatly a new country to live in. Settlers who go to the West will find that they have to endure many hardships and privations of good homes and considerable flocks of sheep and herds of cattle and horses. The country is so eminently adapted to farming in connection with stock raising that when crops are poor merchants, the cattle, horses, sheep and hogs keep growing fat. The settler who goes to the West will be obliged to put up with a rude log cabin or sod house for the first year or two, and to live in the plainest style. He will have to work hard and practice the most rigid economy. He will have to go to Dakota and work for others on a farm will soon learn or an opportunity to obtain a farm of his own, either by homestead entry or by purchasing from land owners who are holding more land than they can handle to advantage. No one need expect to make a fortune in many years; if thrifty and energetic he will be able to secure more than a few years' time. No part of the West offers today anything like the inducements to farm labor that are held out by North Dakota. It should be remembered, too, that farm labor on the prairie, where machinery is used for almost every process of farming, is steadily and hard work as similar labor in the older regions of the country. The days are long, but the work is not severe. A strong young man rides, seeding with drills and broadcast sowers, and harvesting with self-binders. Very little solid-fashioned hand labor is required on prairie farms.

The man who has the means to migrate to North Dakota, but settlers can go at their convenience. Many of the best farms now owned by settlers who came in small means can get their farms cheaply and on easy terms. Many farmers who have a little can immediately find work and wages on the farms of neighbors who have more than they can handle to advantage. In the spring should break up

Moderate crops of wheat, oats and potatoes can be raised the first year, but the chief dependence must be placed upon the supply of home needs. The sod with its tough grass roots will be found difficult to break and to subdue the first year. Very little sod-fashioned land labor is required on prairie farms.

Many settlers who go to North Dakota migrate to that state because they have friends there. Nothing is more helpful to a new settler than to find friends and neighbors to assist him in his first efforts. Many settlers can go directly to their friends' farms and find employment there. In the

tain sufficient help on farms here last season, although high wages were paid. A new settler in a community where no institutions finally can earn a valuable farm here in a few years. A comfortable home can soon be made, and it does not take very much money to commence with. ANNE C. A. VAN METER.

They Have 1,280 Acres Farming Land.

RUSSELL, WELLS COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 23, 1902.

In 1886 I came here from 13 Dodge, Dodge co., Wis., and took a pre-emption and a tree claim, 320 acres, of government land and built a small house and barn. The second year my wife and 5 sons came with 2 teams, 2 cows and household goods, and we broke and put in crop 160 acres of government land, 640 acres. Before my family arrived I had hired a man to break 40 acres of my pre-emption and timber claim, and the next season I had as much as we could prepare each year and raised fair crops. Then we took the balance of my 320 acres and some of the boys' land and that year raised 4,000 bu. of grain. They were all married and had settled on farms adjoining, and needed it to wheat and oats, but the yield was light. In 1897 we sowed 250 acres to wheat and 50 acres to oats and harvested 4,000 bu. of wheat, 2,000 of oats and 1,000 of flax. We now have 1,280 acres, 52 cattle, 9 hogs and about 100 chickens. Our farm machinery consists of 2 binders, 2 mowers, 2 rakes, 2 plows, 2 harrows, rake, mower, sulky plow, breaking plow, walking cultivator, 2 wagons, 2 sets of sleighs and 1 cutter, and comprise 2 good houses, barns and granary. My other son, who had been working on the farm, has now taken a claim and built on it the best place of any that he had seen for farming and stock raising, and is now in a prosperous way. *I have been offered $20 and no now have 1,280 acres of fine land among us.* There is so much free government land left that I have told all the Wells county that lands are cheap here, but it is being rapidly taken up. If land here was valued in proportion to its producing capacity, as it will be in time, it would be rated at a high price per acre. FRANK GROSJEAN.

A Roumanian Who is in Good Shape.

WELLS, WELLS COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 30, 1901.

I emigrated from Roumania to the United States. I first came to Canada, then to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and from there went 300 miles west to Portage la Prairie, Assiniboia, to take up some land. I did not like the land there and came to North Dakota, reaching here May 12, 1893. On June 1st I came on my land and built a shanty 12x14 feet. I had a team and paid for $30 and that took all my money. I had my wife and 6 children to bring, and I had to work out by the month. I can hardly imagine how hard it is to commence making a home on the prairie without money, and I will not advise any one to do it. I have a daughter, only 12 years old. But now, thank Heaven, we are in good circumstances. I have 320 acres of land, 6 horses, 2 mares, 2 colts, 2 cows, 4 cows, 2 yearlings, bisides working steers, 40 hogs and 100 chickens. I have 2 farms and here I have had 3 good crops and 2 smaller ones, but as growing corn has been here by an industrious man at all times, so he can earn $2 a day and board himself. I have a good house and sheep this is a good place, for there is plenty of grass on the open prairies to feed on. I have cultivated 200 acres of land, 160 in cutting to feed them through the winter. This is a very healthful locality. There is a burgeoning of fertile land here that will in monthly ready to be settled, both free government land and cheap settled land. I have always been thankful to this country and room for thousands of other families.

FREDERICK EDINGER.

WELLS, Jan. 18, 1902.—Since writing the above my experience of very large crops and have become deeply impressed with the fact that this is a good country for farming. While I have been engaged in farming has heretofore been unfavorable, yet there has been a steady increase in the productiveness of the country itself, and the production of grain per acre, and my potatoes, milo maize, sugar cane, turnips, radishes and all other garden truck turned out equally well.

It was a pleasure to look at the crops last season, but I will not attempt to describe them, for I have been there so often that I am afraid my potatoes, milo maize, sugar cane, turnips, radishes and all other garden truck turned out equally well.

It was a pleasure to look at the crops last season, but I will not attempt to describe them, for I have been there so often that I am afraid my potatoes will be a per acre. I have had crops next season are good, and people looking for work can here. FREDERICK EDINGER.

An Interesting Letter on Stock Raising.

STEELE, KIDDER COUNTY, N. D., Dec. 17, 1901.

to tie Wells county spring of 1893. The first summer I broke 160 acres and the next spring I broke 160 acres more and 160 acres as a tree claim. First year had 22 bushels per acre of 2,500 bushels of wheat. The second year I planted 4,000 bu. of wheat and broke 300 acres on my land. In 1895 I sowed 400 acres of my land and 100 acres on 17,200 bu. of wheat, 1,000 of oats and 1,000 of flax. In 1895 from my farm I had an average of 32 bu. per acre of wheat and I threshed 1,000 bushels of flax, 1,000 bushels of wheat and more than paid expenses. In 1896 I had a fine crop from my farm, but on account of a poor yield of wheat, 12 bu. per acre, and sold it for 21 per bu. and some of my wheat for 25 cents per bushel. Yet we had enough wheat and flax to more than pay expenses. In 1900 we raised a big crop, many above expense, enough to satisfy any Eastern farmer with the amount of capital it invests. Although Wells county has had some dry summers in the past 8 years, the driest one of all, we have had no failures, and many young men starting with nothing and working by the month will have, over there, a good farm and plenty of lessons and farm tools. I bought here but little money, 9 horses, 16 head of cattle, and no machinery, and I have paid for my farm, have built good, enough machinery to work 1,000 acres of land, and have 16 horses, 150 cattle, 40 hogs and 300 sheep. When the Eastern farmer thinks we cannot raise anything in North Dakota but wheat, he is laboring under a great mistake. It is the best stock country I ever saw. The grass is very thick and green in the fall at most, usually much less. Our grass is very nutritious, cures standing, and is the best grass for hay for stock we have. Snow does well on grass until snow comes, then we feed hay until the snow is gone, and then turn stock on the grass range, usually in March. It is now Feb. 24, and we have had no snow to speak of this winter, and have fed my cattle in the stables, and some of them did not go into the stables at all, and are in good shape and in good condition. Some horses do not pretend to put up any hay for their horses, but turn them out on the grass range and they will range all winter, and coming out in the spring in good order. It costs about $2 per head for cattle to winter on the grass range, and they will steer will weigh 1,000 pounds (and not have any gains) which brings $30 per head, and all cattle are put up to pay as much as $45. It costs $3 freight to get a carload steers to Chicago, and you can feed a carload of steer in Chicago with less other expenses, say $15, which would leave a clear profit of $10 on each steer. I have never lost but 2 cattle in 8 years. I purchased 160 acres of land in 1898 for $1,000. I sold and bought my grain last winter and wintered them in good shape. Have $1,500 for that steer, and have had 3 crops of wheat, 1 crop of pea bean, and raised 175 lambs, worth $3 each, or $450, total for lambs and wheat and pea bean, and have myself and 2 men and 1 boy having much of anything else to do, feeding them mostly on wheat and oats, and have had 2 men and 1 boy to work for me, but our cattle and ponies at the stock ranch. I had a man with me 6 weeks in lambing time, which cost me $30 for feeding them, and I have had no other help for stock, and have had my only last 4 of the old ones, and there is money enough in sight there to make a fortune. Wells county is one of the best all round stock counties in the Union in a few years. We came here in 1893 with $1,000 worth of property, and now we have what we value at $15,000, and there are just as good opportunities for making money now, and even better, as there are by can grasp by our experience. With the resources and naturalwheat, stock farming and dairying Wells county is going to be one of the richest agricultural states in the Union. C. SAFFORD.

Wells County Crops.

FESSENDEN, Feb. 4, 1902.—As a supplement to the above, the following result of farming and stock raising in Wells county: I sowed 190 acres to wheat and harvested 3,700 bu. No. 1 hard; 190 acres to barley, 4,000 bu.; 40 acres to oats, 1,000 bu.; 40 acres of flax but did not get it threshed last fall. Had a good crop of hay and the increase of my herd of cattle and wool brought me $344 and the increase of my herd of sheep and 21 cattle to Chicago and got $4.80 per cwt. Had 21 cattle to Chicago and got $4.80 per cwt. 9 lbs., netting $1,272, over $60 per head. The shipment included all steers and several last spring calves. The shipment included 7 two-year-old steers, 9 three-year-old, 3 four-year-old steers, and 2 cows. Sold 2 horses for $200. Have had 2 colts born during the year, making a grand total of about $5,700. My expenses were about $1,000. Have summered and wintered 200 head of cattle and 100 head of sheep. Have 300 acres, which give me a good prospect for a fine crop in 1902.

HENRY ROSENBERG.

North Dakota is a Fine, Healthful Country.

OSBORNE, WELLS COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 16, 1902.

I came from Oakland, Wis., in the spring of 1893. I had a family of 5 children and a team. Having no money, I worked to earn a team, farming tools, and lumber to build a house, and I broke 30 acres of land. In the fall myself and brother built a house and a cow with our earnings and broke 30 more bought 2 teams and a cow with our earnings and broke 30 more acres. In the spring of 1894 I had 60 acres in crop, 30 acres of wheat, 20 acres of oats and 10 acres of flax. I had a good crop, 30 bushels per acre of wheat, 50 bushels per acre of oats and 15 bushels per acre of flax. I sold my crop for $1 per bushel for wheat, 50 cents per bushel for oats and $2 per bushel for flax. I had 2 cows and 2 calves and 2 pigs. I had 2 horses, 1 wagon, 1 set of sleighs, 1 set of harness, 1 walking plow, 1 breaking plow, 1 harrow, 1 cultivator, 1 mower, 1 hay rake, 1 fanning mill, 1 grain drill, 1 set of bobs, 1 cutter, 1 stove, 1 cook stove, 1 heating stove, 1 bed, 1 set of dishes, 1 table, 1 cupboard, 1 bureau, 1 clock, 1 lamp, 1 set of chairs, 1 rocking chair, 1 sewing machine, 1 organ, 1 set of tools, 1 grindstone, 1 churn, 1 set of scales, 1 cross cut saw, 1 set of bench tools, 1 set of blacksmith tools, 1 set of carpenter tools, 1 set of shoemaker tools, 1 set of tinsmith tools, 1 set of harness tools, 1 set of cooper tools, 1 set of wheelwright tools, 1 set of painter tools, 1 set of mason tools, 1 set of plasterer tools, 1 set of bricklayer tools, 1 set of stonecutter

acres, at $8 per acre, paying for it in the preferred stock of the company which I purchased at 62 cents on the dollar. I made my money which I purchased and now own 81 percent of the land the first year, balance second year and 81 percent of the price from the railroad company for a strip of land on either side of the railroad within ten years from date of purchase. I brought with me $1,500 and now, as to money, am worth over $1,500. All a few millions for myself and family and a good deal more if I can realize on my investments. Now I have 160 acres of deeded land, 3 houses, 2 stables, 1 granary, 1 chicken house, 1 well, 1 hen house, 1 cow, 1 horse, 1 set of harness, 1 buggy, 1 sleigh, 1 sealer, harness, plows, etc., and my home valued at

A Bohemian Settler Who is Healthy and Doing Well.

MANDAN, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Feb. 8, 1891.

I was born in Bohemia, emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, where I lived 15 years till 1885, when, with my wife and 3 children, came here. I took a homestead and a tree claim, 160 acres each, on free government land costing $32 for fees for the two claims, and bought 80 acres of Northern Pacific R. R. land. I have a nice farm, watered by the Little Heart river. I dig my coal from a bluff within a mile of my house. I have a good house, barn, stables, corn cribs, etc. Besides water from the Little Heart, I have a good well at my door. Both my wife and I were ailing and doctoring for years before I left Ohio. They told me that I would just take her out to Dakota and bury her. We have all had the very best of health—have had the doctor but once since we came. The weather couldn't be beat for health. The winters are cold generally, but dry, and one don't mind the cold, neither does the stock appear to. There is but little snow winters, but very little as compared with states to the east and south of North Dakota. Among other things that I raised I have always had good corn crops. My crops in 1890 were 38 acres wheat, yield 714 bu.; oats, 14 acres, 429 bu.; corn, 16 acres, 800 bu.; potatoes, 1 acre, 150 bu.; fine ones. I sold my wheat at 73 cents per bu. and can sell in Mandan my oats for 45 cents and potatoes for 65 cents. I have 26 head of cattle, from 10 of which we make butter averaging 20 cents a pound; and my 20 fat hogs averaged 4 cents a pound. I raise all sorts of poultry, which pays best of anything. Last year I sold $120 worth of eggs from 120 chickens. Each year I have a garden with all kinds of vegetables, melons included. Live stock does well and it does not cost much to keep them. I shelter and fodder mine in bad weather, the foddering time at most is no longer than 3 months. This winter has been so mild and so without snow that I haven't foddered at all. A man ought to raise different crops—everything—and stock, so that if one thing don't do well he has other things to help out; also, he can better keep busy the year round. If a man will work this way he will make money. There are no long muddy seasons in this region and the roads are almost always good and hard. The soil is first rate. I am much pleased that I came here, am healthy and doing well. The country is yet but thinly settled. Lots of places just as good as mine can be secured along the Little Heart river. JOHN KADOVITZ.

MANDAN, Jan. 30, 1892.—In connection with what I have said above I will state that I think better than ever of this part of North Dakota, and wish I could express it stronger. My crops the past season were as follows: From 60 acres of wheat I threshed 1,618 bu.; over 22 bu. to the acre, and from 17 acres I raised 919 bu. oats, over 54 bu. to the acre, I gathered from 7 acres of corn 900 bu., and from 1½ acres potatoes 300 bu.; besides I raised a nice lot of garden vegetables. My stock did well and is in fine condition. Good wages and steady work can be had by industrious men and women. If Bohemian settlers want to know more about this country and will write to me I will be glad to furnish information.

JOHN KADOVITZ.

A Fine Cattle, Sheep and Horse Raising Country.

CANNON BALL RIVER, MORTON CO., N. D., Jan. 23, 1891.

I have been here since 1872. For the first 6 or 7 years after I reached this district, 30 miles from Mandan, settlers paid but little attention to raising crops. Since 1879, however, crops of all kinds have been grown with varying success. Root crops have been good every year and the corn crops are usually good. In each of the past 5 years I have raised from 2,000 to 2,500 bushels of corn on from 50 to 60 acres. I have had rather indifferent success with oats and wheat here in the Cannon Ball river country, but stock, properly handled, has always been profitable. Have raised horses and mules the past 10 years, and excepting those we work have never fed them anything. High bred horses and mules are raised and do as well [illegible] usually kept from 400 to 700 head of cattle. The feeding season in winter has usually been from 75 to 90 days. In no country have I ever seen cattle get so fat in the summer and fall as they do here. My 3-year-old steers have averaged 1,400 pounds in Chicago with no feeding at all except what they get on the prairie. North Dakota beef cattle have acquired a good reputation in the cattle markets, are sought after and command good prices. A year ago I introduced a band of 1,000 yearling ewes from Montana. Last spring they clipped over 9,500 lbs. of wool, a little over 9½ pounds per head, which, at 17 cents per pound delivered at Mandan, amounted to $1,615. Last summer we raised 854 lambs for which we refused $2.50 each—more than their mothers cost. In my opinion a farmer coming here to farm should cultivate only as much land as he can take care of himself; shut the door against the machinery man and place what money he can in cattle or sheep. This valley is all right for the right kind of people, and there is plenty of room for them, and they can succeed by combining stock raising with diversified farming.

H. S. PARKIN.

CANNON BALL RIVER, Jan. 19, 1892.—My last year's experience was fully as satisfactory as that of previous years. I cannot say too much in praise of this region, and will repeat what I have above said to the effect that there is plenty of room for industrious, enterprising people, and they can make a success here in cattle and sheep raising in combination with diversified farming. H. S. PARKIN.

Room for Many German Families.

NEW SALEM, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 23, 1892.

I am a German and came from Wisconsin to New Salem in 1885, with only $3 in money. I took a homestead, 160 acres, on government land for $18, the government fee. I worked out some of the time every year except the last two. I now have 3 horses, 28 cattle, a binder, plow, mower, rake, fanning mill, and all other things which belong to farming. In 1889 I threshed 880 bu. of wheat from 25 acres, 35 bu. to the acre; 300 bu. of oats from 4 acres, 75 bu. to the acre; 150 bu. of barley from 3 acres, 50 bu. to the acre; and 125 bu. of flax from 10 acres, 12½ bu. to the acre. I raised 800 head of cabbage for which I realized 12 cents a head and 25 bu. of onions sold at 75 cents a bu. This is a good country for dairying, butter brings good prices, and poultry and eggs are profitable to farmers. Since coming to Morton county I borrowed $400, but now I have sufficient means to pay all my debts. While the crops some years are light, yet farmers always make a good living and in good crop years they make a good deal of money. I would state for the information of my German friends that all crops in North Dakota are planted in the spring, and in about 100 days the grain is harvested. The hard spring wheat raised in this region makes the best flour in the world and brings higher prices than any other kind of wheat that is grown. This is a grand country for raising cattle, sheep and horses. Great stretches of fine prairie land covered with rich grass furnish feed for stock, the water is good, we have no long spells of muddy weather, the roads are almost always good and hard, and our land gradually increases in value. Stock raising in connection with general farming is very profitable, and there is room here for as many German families as wish to go into farming and raising cattle, horses and sheep, whether they have money to start with or not. THEODORE DAUB.

Good Schools and Churches and Plenty of Fine Land.

NEW SALEM, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Feb. 1, 1892.

I was born in Dielingen, Westphalen, Germany. Came to America in 1872, and went to Washington county, Ill., where I farmed 10 years on a rented farm and saved $200. I came to New Salem in 1883 with about $200 cash and $200 worth of farming machinery, consisting of an old wagon, binder and threshing machine. After I had built a house, my money was all gone. I now have 160 acres of land and I don't want any better than mine is. I have a good house, worth $800, 3 horses, $250; 40 head of cattle, $1,000; 20 sheep, $60; new machinery, worth $500; and am partner in a new threshing machine for which I have paid $200. Including my land and improvements I consider that I am worth at a low estimate $4,000. Now you ask me how I got so much property? I will tell you. In 1888 I borrowed $100 and bought 4 cows and 9 calves. I bought these of a man who wished to leave the country but returned within half a year. My 4 cows and 9 calves have increased to 40 head. I have sold $200 worth of fat cattle besides making 50 lbs. of [illegible]

any money. I took up a homestead of 160 acres on free government land, and then started to work for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, and worked at other places, wherever I could find anything to do. Everything I could save I bought stock with. One of my sons also worked out and we soon had money enough to buy a yoke of oxen, and then commenced farming. Since that time I have bought all the machinery I need for a farm, including my binder, mower, rake, seeder, and other agricultural implements. I have now about 140 acres under cultivation, from which I raise good crops; have 7 horses worth from $50 to $150, which, altogether, I value at $600. Have 30 slick cattle, worth $15 to $20 each, about $540. I am part owner in 200 sheep and value my share at from $100 to $140. I would not sell my homestead. Around here are some fine pieces of both railroad and government land waiting to be taken up by settlers. The railroad land can be had cheap and the government land for nothing. The climate is healthful, the soil is rich, the water is good and the pastures on the prairies are as good as could be wished. JOHN ARNSTADT.

Good Coal, Good Water and Good Climate.

GLENULLEN, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 21, 1892.

I am a German and came from Kerson, Southern Russia, in 1884. I worked for my father for 3 years and got about $300 ahead. I then took up 160 acres of free government land for myself, which cost $18 for the government papers. The first year I did not have very good luck, but the past two years I worked hard and raised good crops. Now I have a good house and in two years more can prove up on my government land and own it simply by living on it 5 years. I have 47 cattle, 6 horses, wagons, buggy, and all the farm implements I need. My last season's crops sold for over $2,000. A man asked me yesterday what I would sell out for, and I told him I would not take $5,000. Even if I sold out I would not know where to go to find a better country or a place where a man can do so well as he can here. We have good coal, good water, good climate, and this is a splendid place for farming and to raise horses, cattle and sheep. The grasses are wonderfully rich and there are broad ranges for grazing stock on the rolling prairies stretching out miles and miles in every direction. There is room here for thousands of families to make for themselves excellent homes on free government land. MATTHIAS SCHANCK.

40 Bu. of "No. 1 Hard" Spring Wheat to the Acre.

GLENULLEN, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 26, 1892.

During the fall of 1884 I read in the papers about the fine prairie land, abundance of coal and water and what a good stock country this section was. I therefore took a trip out here and found everything as described. During that fall I traveled all over Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana and South Dakota, and in none of those states did I find a place that suited me nearly as well as right here. In the spring of 1885 I moved my family here from my old home in Hamilton county, Ill., and now own a good farm given me by Uncle Sam. My stock looks splendid; my crops the past year were something that would make my old Illinois neighbors' eyes stick out. My oats weighed 34 lbs. to the measured bushel, and yielded 70 bu. to the acre. My wheat was all "No. 1 hard" and yielded 40 bu. to the acre. I wish the farmers in the East could see my potatoes, they are so large, so many bushels to the acre, and so sound, mealy and good. There is a vast amount of free government land and cheap railroad land with the finest kind of pastures for live stock, with good water and an abundance of coal which costs nothing but the digging. For mixed farming, and raising cattle, sheep and horses this part of North Dakota beats anything I ever saw.

VALENTINE SCHMITT.

Large Yields of Everything.

GLENULLEN, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 14, 1892.

I am a German and came here with my family in the fall of 1889 from [illegible], in southwestern Russia. I had heard from friends who had come over before I did that this was a nice country; that there was plenty of good water and grass, and that it was a splendid place for raising stock; also that it was a good farming country and that there was plenty of good coal all through this section to be had for the digging. I came over and found everything as represented. I found a man who wanted to go back to Iowa on account of his family and business, and bought his outfit, consisting of team, wagon, agricultural implements, 3 head of cattle, house on his government claim, and seed and provisions, for $700. I then filed on the land which cost me $18 more, the regular government fee for a homestead of 160 acres. Last spring I put the seed into the ground, which had been most all plowed the previous autumn. Last fall I sold over $500 worth of "No. 1 hard" wheat, about $100 worth of flax, and have quite a lot of corn, oats and vegetables on hand. I had large yields of everything that I raised and got good prices. There are large areas of fine government land to be had. I think I have done very well, but still no better than any one else can who comes here and works and tries to make him a home. *I have paid for all I bought when I came here from the proceeds of one year's crop, and in a few years I will get a deed from the government for my land, and only for living on it 5 years.* This is a good enough country for me, and I have made my first payment to the Northern Pacific Railroad Co. for 160 acres more land bought on the 5 year plan. VICKTOR SHAUF.

A Nice Grove of Trees Around the House.

HEBRON, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 30, 1892.

I am a German-Russian, came from Hutchinson county, South Dakota, in 1886 with 18 other families and we all took land in the vicinity of Hebron and have never regretted the move. Some had money, some had none, and others had debts when they came, but I do not know of one who is not to-day a well-to-do farmer, owner of a good farm and live stock and nearly everybody is out of debt. I took up a tree claim and a pre-emption on government land, 320 acres, as I had used my homestead right in South Dakota. I have 8,400 young trees on my tree claim and a nice grove of trees around my house, consisting of ash, box elder and cottonwood trees, about 14 feet high, which afford good shade. Although we have had some dry seasons since we have been here we always raised enough to better our condition every year. I raised last season 3,340 bu. of small grain, consisting of wheat, flax, oats and barley and a lot of corn. When I came here I had 15 cattle and 3 horses, now I have 60 cattle and 6 horses, and have sold $1,100 worth of cattle since coming here. My chickens keep me in groceries and besides I sell over $75 worth of eggs per year. We have a good market for all farm products, as we are near the State of Montana, where produce brings high prices. We have good land, a good climate, mild winters, good water, and an inexhaustible amount of coal free for everybody. With such advantages our country is bound to be prosperous. CHRISTIAN ZACHER.

Experience of a German from Berlin.

HEBRON, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 19, 1892.

I came from Berlin, Germany, to Chicago in 1884 and worked in machine shops there 3 years and a half. In 1888 I removed to Hebron with my wife and boy, having only $300 in cash. I entered a homestead, 160 acres of government land, and built a small house and a sod barn. Bought a cow and went to work as a section hand on the Northern Pacific R. R. at $1.40 a day. Next year I bought a pair of oxen and broke 10 acres of land and raised potatoes and garden truck. The third year I broke 15 acres more, sowed my 10 acres which I broke the previous year and raised 180 bu. of wheat, and 150 bu. of corn on the sod. During these years my wife worked in a hotel and earned $20 a month and board. We saved some money out of her earnings as well as mine. Next year I bought a wagon, some machinery and 2 more cows. Last year I seeded 33 acres to wheat and raised 948 bu. of No. 1 hard, had some oats and 400 bu. of corn. Have 23 cattle, 3 horses, 4 hogs and 160 chickens. I have sold the past year $70 worth of eggs and $25 worth of butter. Any man can come here and get fine government land free of expense and with a few head of cattle will soon be a man of property and independent. W. BEHRENS.

Cattle Get Fat on the Nutritious Grasses.

HEBRON, MORTON COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 28, 1891.

I am a German-Russian, and settled near Hebron, North Dakota, 4½ years ago. When I first came to the United States [illegible]

to year with good results, making something each year. Three years ago I bought 25 young cattle and 9 mares, and now have 142 cattle, [illegible] for $150 and have 7 head left, and have 4 hogs, 50 [illegible] and farm machinery. I have proved up my claims and [illegible] up all my machinery and store bills. I consider my farm, stock and implements worth at least $7,000. I have coal on my land, good water, and plenty of hay. The climate is healthful for man and beast. There is a good demand for labor. Stock is now, Jan. 23, out on the prairie, and we do not stable cattle or horses with the exception of the working teams. I would not go back to Ohio to live. I make my living here easier, and make money with less capital, besides being much healthier. There are good roads and not as much unpleasant muddy weather as we had to endure in Ohio.

SIMON J. NAGEL.

OLIVER AND MERCER COUNTIES.

Has Never Had a Doctor for His Family.

BENTLEY, OLIVER COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 27, 1892.

I came from Douglas county, Minn., to North Dakota in 1880, bringing along 25 cattle and a team of horses, and settled in Oliver county, where I now live. About 4 years ago I sold 98 head of cattle and went into sheep raising, which suits me better. I have been unfortunate with horses, but now have 15 head. Although I believe in mixed farming I have only cropped about 50 acres, not a very big farm, but I have always raised enough for feed and most years have had good crops of oats, corn, etc. My fuel costs me nothing. I have an abundance of coal on my land which is easily dug. During our whole time in North Dakota we have never had need of a doctor in our home. I bought 2 lambs in the fall, a year ago, for $2 each and wintered them and sold them in the spring for $3.50, and have bought 1,000 more lambs. They suit me better to care for than cattle and are cheaper to raise and more profitable. A man with industry and say $500 to start in stock can't do better than in this country. WM. H. SMITH.

An Immense Amount of Unoccupied Government Land.

KREM, MERCER COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 19, 1892.

I am a German, came from South Russia in 1885 and went to Scotland, South Dakota, with only $50. In 1886 I removed to Mercer county, North Dakota, 60 miles north of New Salem, without one cent of money. I took 320 acres of free government land, broke some of it and borrowed the seed to sow it. I had a cow, which I brought from South Dakota, and I bought a pair of oxen and an old wagon, paying $50 down and went in debt $25. I now have 9 new wagons, 1 new self-binder, 2 gang plows, and all needed agricultural implements. I am also part owner in a threshing machine. I have 7 horses, 12 cattle and still hang to my old oxen. I threshed last fall 1,672 bu. of wheat, 800 of oats, 180 of flax, 130 of barley and 22 bu. of millet. Had besides 120 bu. potatoes, and 10 wagon boxes of corn. I am about $300 in debt, but have on hand about 1,300 bu. of wheat to sell, besides a portion of my other crops. My 320 acres is a fine body of land and I would not sell it. In this county there is an immense amount of unoccupied free government land and low priced railroad land adapted to farming and stock raising.

WILLIAM BRIEDE.

A Fine Country to Get Land and Make a Home.

KREM, MERCER COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 21, 1892.

I am a German from South Russia. Leaving my native country in 1887, I went to South Dakota, where I bought a yoke of cattle, 7 cows, an old wagon, and provisions. I did not like it there and borrowed $74 to pay freight to New Salem, North Dakota, took a homestead and tree claim on government land, 320 acres, to make me a farm, and now have 5 horses, 20 cattle, 2 new wagons, gang and sulky plows, binder, mower, rake, and all necessary farming implements to work my place. In 1890 I threshed 500 bu. of wheat; 250 bu. of oats; and 94 bu. of flax. In 1891 [illegible] from 60 acres 1,092 bu. of wheat, 27 [illegible] and from 20 acres 1[illegible] bu. of flax. The amount received for 500 bu. of my wheat last fall bought my provisions for the winter and pays all that I owe. The prairie grass is rich and fine for cattle, sheep and horses and we find a good market in town for grain, butter and eggs. The country here is new but is settling up with farmers who raise cattle, horses and sheep on their farms and are steadily gaining property. This is a good country to get land and make a home, and there is plenty of free government land for a large number of industrious people to secure farms and make homes for their families. CHRIST ZEIZLER.

STARK COUNTY.

A New York Settler's Success in Raising Cattle and Sheep.

ANTELOPE, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 16, 1892.

I was born in Herkimer county, N. Y., in 1850, and came to North Dakota in 1883. I selected a homestead on government land situated on Spring creek, Stark county. There are several never failing springs of excellent water, an abundance of coal, easy to mine, and every year I cut about 50 tons of hay on my claim and have 75 acres under cultivation. When I came here I brought a pair of horses, one cow and calf, besides a small amount of money. In Dec., 1885, I bought 2 ewe lambs for $8. In April, 1887, I bought one horse for $150, and in Oct. I added to my cattle 18 head at $685. Have sold from my cows $1,700 worth of butter, $600 worth of cattle, *and from my 2 ewes have sold in wool and mutton* $168. I now have 90 cattle, mostly high grade Polled Angus, worth $1,800, and 52 sheep worth $208. In April, 1889, I traded my team for 3 mares and a colt, from which I have raised 4 colts, one of which is a mare 3 years old, weighing 1,300 lbs. and worth $200. I now have 7 horses and colts, worth $950. I have built a good 7 room frame house, a basement bank barn, 40x158, with hay loft above and root cellar in rear, in which I can store 100 tons of hay. I have the latest improved farm machinery, such as press drill, binder, wheel plow, etc. The yield of wheat in Stark county last season was from 25 to 45 bu. per acre, averaging 25 bu. to the acre, and oats from 35 to 60 bu. to the acre. I have a good well of water in both house and barn. Any person with ambition and energy can do well in this country with or without money. If one has a determination to succeed there is no reason why sheep, horse and cattle raising as a business or in connection with mixed farming will not pay here as well, if not better, than in any country in the world. Why stay East and farm on rented or high priced land and get only 15 to 18 bu. per acre? Why not stop renting farms and come here and either take a homestead on free government land or buy cheap land and make a good home and become independent? R. LEFFER.

A German Russian Who Threshed 4,600 Bu. of Wheat.

ANTELOPE, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 27, 1892.

I am a German, came from Russia to North Dakota in the spring of 1891 with my family. We took a homestead, 160 acres of government land, in Stark county, which only cost the usual government fee of $18, and we also bought 160 acres adjoining of deeded land. I put in about 175 acres of crop. I paid $2,600 for my deeded land and purchased a complete outfit of machinery and also bought the crop on an adjoining piece of land, for which I paid $475. From my first crop in North Dakota I threshed 4,600 bu. of wheat and 500 bu. of oats and had some corn, flax and potatoes. *My wheat graded "No. 1 hard," and I sold it at good prices, and realized more than the cost of the land and all of the machinery and live stock which I purchased after coming here.* We are exceedingly well satisfied with the success which we have made. There is an immense area of free government land and a homestead of 160 acres of fine land can be had for the government fee of $18. The grasses on the prairies are very rich, the water is good and this is a fine country for raising stock. There are many German-Russian families located in this district; many families are coming every year, and there is room for thousands more to make good homes.

JOHANN SCHMIDT.

"We Have All Worked Hard but Are Well Paid."

ANTELOPE, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 22, 1891.

I came from England in 1870, have a wife and 4 children, and am 40 years old. I lived in Ohio 5 years, and then in Will county, Illinois. Came to Stark county in the spring of 1882, and was $80 in debt when I got here. Bought 2 horses, 1 cow, 1 heifer and a calf—one horse died on arrival. I worked 18 months for the Northern Pacific R. R., took [illegible] and tree claim (320 acres) on free government [illegible] title to the

my claim from the Northern Pacific R. R., at $4.50 per acre. I now have 18 cattle, 5 horses, 5 hogs and 30 chickens, and everything is all paid for and I have money besides. We have good markets for farm products and get good prices for all that we raise. Cattle, horses and sheep do well, and so do hogs and fowls. This is a great country for farming and stock raising, and we will all get rich if we stick to it and get all the livestock we can, as they increase fast, and one man has a good deal of property around him. There is a large amount of free government land and low price railroad land to be had. There is enough new prairie land here to furnish homes for many, many families.

HENRICH SCHNEIDER.

2,285 Bushels of Wheat from 90 Acres.

ANTELOPE, STARK CO., N. D., Jan. 22, 1891.

I am a German-Russian and came to Stark county in the fall of 1886 with my wife and 7 children, and had $700 in money. I took a quarter section (160 acres) of government land, 6 miles south of the Northern Pacific R. R. I built me a sod house and barn, bought 3 cows for $110 and 3 horses for $205, plow, wagon, etc., and broke 80 acres. In 1890 I raised 880 bu. of wheat from 60 acres, and on the balance of my land had good oats, flax and corn, and a good garden. I now have 10 head of cattle and 6 horses. This country is very good for general farming and to raise sheep, cattle and horses. Industrious people can come here with or without money and do well. PAUL MESSER.

ANTELOPE, Dec. 1, 1891.—I will add to the above letter the yield of my last year's crops. In the season of 1891 from 90 acres I had 2,285 bu. of wheat, about 25⅓ bu. to the acre, and from 13 acres I had 500 bu. of oats, nearly 40 bu. to the acre. Working people are wanted in this country. Both men and women can earn good wages. At spare times farm hands can look around and take free government land for themselves. I am going to Odessa, Russia, this winter for a visit. Many German-Russian families will come here in 1892. PAUL MESSER.

Took a Homestead and Built a Sod House and Barn.

ANTELOPE, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 13, 1892.

I am a German-Russian and came from Paraslow, Karsun, Russia, to North Dakota in 1889, with my wife and two children, and had $100. Took a homestead of 160 acres on government land at a cost of $18, the government fee, and built a sod house and barn. Have 7 head of cattle and 4 horses. Last year from 35 bu. of seed on 35 acres I got 1,313 bu. of "No. 1 hard" wheat, machine measure, over 37 bu. to the acre, and from 6 bu. of seed on 4 acres have got 250 bu. of barley, over 62 bu. to the acre. I now have $1,500 worth of property, besides my 160 acres of land. This is a good country to live in, better than Russia. We have plenty of coal and good water. The prairies are extensive and covered with rich grass which makes fine free pasture for stock. GOTLIEB BITZER.

A German Who is Out of Debt and Worth $5,000.

RICHARDTON, STARK CO., N. D., Jan. 21, 1891.

I left Hamburg, Germany, with my family in 1883 for North Dakota, and had but little money when I settled here. I entered free government land and had to go in debt for lumber to build with, and for horses, wagon and farm machinery. The size of my farm at present writing is 480 acres with 200 under cultivation. My dwelling and other buildings I value at $800. I raised last year 500 bu. wheat besides other grain, potatoes, etc., to value at $750. Have 4 horses, 12 head of cattle and will buy 250 or 350 sheep in the spring, as I consider sheep raising a great source of profit for the farmers in this section. The country is especially adapted to grazing, plenty of nice hay to be had from natural meadows and on the prairies, and there is good water running openly on the grazing ranges. I have all kinds of farm machinery, am entirely out of debt and consider myself worth at least $5,000. My success speaks for itself with regard to the advanta[illegible] to farmers to raise on shares. Settlers who come here without means to buy, can in this way get stock to raise, and there is free land here for thousands of families. PETER PALM.

RICHARDTON, Jan. 8, 1892.—To the above I now give the amount of grain produced on my farm last season. In 1891 I raised from 125 acres 3,100 bu. of wheat, about 25 bu. to the acre, and from 27 acres I had 1,500 bu. of oats, over 55 bu. to the acre. The farmers in this section of country did extremely well last season. There were a good many homesteads taken up by new settlers on the free government land in this county the past year. The stock on farms is increasing rapidly in numbers, there is a steady rise in the value of lands here and the settlers are generally prosperous. PETER PALM.

Meets With Success and Sent to Illinois for His Girl.

RICHARDTON, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Feb. 2, 1892.

I came to North Dakota in 18[illegible], located at Richardton in 1882, took government land and started in to open a farm and make me a home. Notwithstanding some dry seasons my yield of wheat previous to last year will average about 10 bu. to the acre. In 1891, from 47 acres, I threshed 1,975 bu. of "No. 1 hard" Fife wheat, 42 bu. to the acre, of which 15 acres was on sod, 5 acres on unplowed [illegible] land and 27 acres on corn ground and summer fallowed land. We have a fine dry climate, lignite coal for fuel, fertile land and broad rich grazing ranges with good water. I find stock raising a paying business. I started with 2 cows and now have 29 cattle. I also have 375 sheep, which pay for themselves and their care each year. When I located here had only $40, was a single man and it kept me hustling to make a living, picked up what work I could and batched it. Did the best I could until I got a start and was satisfied I was on the road to success, then sent back to Illinois for my girl, who makes me a splendid wife, and the old "shack" is already blessed with 3 children, and gives us a happy, independent home. R. WEBB.

A Fortunate Minnesota Man Who Farms 1,400 Acres.

TAYLOR, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 22, 1892.

I came from Albert Lea, Minn., to North Dakota in 1882, and took a homestead and tree claim on government land near Taylor, a station on the Northern Pacific railroad. I brought with me horses and farm machinery to the value of $500 and about $300 in money. I built a house on my claim, to which I have made additions from time to time and have lived there until last November, when I moved to Taylor. I have followed farming every year with varied success and with an increased acreage under cultivation each year, beginning with 10 acres in 1883, and in 1891 having 1,100 acres. From 1883 to 1890 inclusive my wheat averaged 14 bu. per acre and last year I raised 22,000 bu. on 800 acres, 27½ bu. per acre; 11,000 bu. of oats on 180 acres, 61 bu. per acre; and 1,100 bu. barley on 20 acres, 55 bu. per acre. I have kept adding to my land since 1885 and now have 1,760 acres, 1,400 acres of which is under cultivation, and which, with the buildings, is worth at least $10 per acre or $17,600. Have teams and farm machinery worth $4,500; cattle and hogs valued at $500; a general store and machinery yard worth $4,000; and a hotel in Taylor worth $2,500. I estimate my present worth, including grain on hand, at $35,000, and am practically free from debt. I have worked hard, been economical and have used all legitimate ways in my power to better my condition. I shall farm 1,400 acres in the season of 1892 and break a half section more of new land. I have an abiding faith in this country as a grain and stock raising region. Government land can be had here free within 5 miles of the railroad, and good wild land can be bought from 2 to 5 miles at from $5 to $8 per acre. The native grasses on the prairies are highly nutritious, stock grazing on the open ranges and fattening throughout the spring, summer and fall, running out most of the time during the winter and coming out in good condition the following spring. Any amount of wild hay can be cut on the prairies to feed stock when required in inclement winter weather. The climate is extremely healthful and for work and comfortable living the spring, summer and autumn months are all that could be desired, and the winters are clear and sunshiny and as a rule are mild and agreeable. The great drawback to farming here is the scarcity of help, but with increased immigration this will be overcome. Farm hands receive from $20 to $25 per month. Day laborers are paid from $1.50 to $2 per day [illegible] and threshing [illegible] may be permitted to add [illegible] has helped me continu[illegible]

them through last winter, feeding only about 3 tons of hay, and in the spring my wool and lambs amounted to over $500, paying me 100 per cent. I am reasonably happy and perfectly contented with this country, and am here to stay. Would advise intending settlers to come here and take a homestead on free government land, of which there is any quantity awaiting settlement. Let them come with a determination of staying, invest their money in live stock of any kind, from a hen to a horse, stick close by them for a few years, and I am certain that they will have no cause to regret it, as prosperity will surely attend the undertaking. JAMES G. SAUNDERS.

GLADSTONE, Jan. 4, 1892.—Having given my experience and views with respect to North Dakota for the years previous to the date of the above letter I herein give the outcome of my purchase of 250 sheep 2 years ago, for $520. I have carried them through the 2 winters, feeding only a few tons of hay each winter. This fall I sold 100 wethers for $300, which added to my wool clip for the 2 years, makes an aggregate of $900 received in cash from the original bunch, besides I have 400 head left, mostly ewes, to raise from. I expect during the coming year to purchase 400 more, which added to my present flock and increase during the spring will make my number about 1,100 head. With a good flock of sheep and living in the pure and invigorating climate of North Dakota, I want nothing better. Sheep raising is profitable and is an easy way to make money. JAMES G. SAUNDERS.

An Industrious Man Can Do Well Here.

DICKINSON, STARK CO., N. D., Jan. 23, 1892.

I am a native of England, county of Cumberland, and landed here May 7th, 1883, with good health, and money all spent. I soon got work on the N. P. R. R., and saved my earnings. In 1884 I took up a homestead (160 acres) of government land, since which time I have raised some good and some light crops. I am engaged in raising cattle, horses and sheep, but now I am directing my attention principally to sheep, having an interest in about 1,000 head. I have a frame house, good stone barn, sheep sheds, tool shed, granary, etc., with a never-failing well of water, and a full supply of farm tools and implements. I see no reason why an able-bodied, industrious man should not do well here in diversified farming and stock raising. Our soil is remarkably fertile, and the native grasses furnish nutritious feed both summer and winter. At present there has been no snow worth mentioning as yet this winter, and stock of all kinds are grazing their living on the natural pastures, as they usually do all winter, and in the spring there is plenty of fat beef on the ranges. W. G. WHINN.

Came 4 Years Ago With $216 and is Now in Good Circumstances.

DICKINSON, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Feb. 1, 1892.

I am a German, came here from Kiew, Russia, 4 years ago with my wife and 4 children and had $216. I took a homestead on free government land, 160 acres, paying $18, the land office fees. My farm is situated on Green river, has upon it good natural meadows, and I have 60 acres under cultivation. I have farmed each year and have also cut and sold from 50 to 100 tons of hay. Last season I raised 622 bu. of wheat, 258 bu. of oats, 300 bu. of potatoes, 300 bu. of corn and put up over 100 tons of hay. I have 4 horses, 20 cattle, some pigs and poultry. Our butter, eggs and poultry bring good prices in the market. My eldest daughter married last fall and I have helped to establish a home for her. I am now in good circumstances and if I had had a few hundred dollars more money when I came here I could now be a wealthy man. FRANZ ZAJIC.

Would Like His Countrymen to K[illegible] His Success.

DICKINSON, STARK COUNTY, [illegible] 1892.

I am a Bohemian, came here from Russia in 1887, and took a homestead and tree claims, 320 acres, on free government [illegible] an old wagon, some household goods and was $30 in debt. The first year I built a house and barn, raised enough wheat, oats, corn and potatoes to buy a pair of ponies and farming implements and pay the $30 that I owed. My son and daughter earned enough to buy 2 cows. In 1889 my son took a homestead, 160 acres, built him a house and barn and in 1890 I gave him 4 working horses. I have been successful in farming. In 1891 I raised 1,400 bu. of wheat, 600 bu. of oats, 180 bu. of corn and 400 bu. of potatoes. My son raised on his farm 800 bu. of wheat, 300 bu. of oats and some corn, potatoes and vegetables. I sell butter, eggs and poultry enough to pay for my groceries. Now I have 4 horses, a pair of oxen, 12 cattle, 2 new wagons, binder and all of the farming implements that I need. My son has now 4 horses, a cow, new wagon, mower, sulky plow, is half owner of a binder, and has all things needed to run his farm. We have done extremely well here and I would like to have my countrymen learn of our success. FRANTA KOVAR.

Has a Homestead, Tree Claim and Stock Ranch.

DICKINSON, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 20, 1892.

I am a German, came from Bavaria to Dickinson in 1884 with my wife and family and had $1,000. I bought a lot in town, built a house, bought a pair of horses for $250 and worked, hauling coal during the winter. In the spring I took a homestead and tree claim on government land, 320 acres, and built a frame house and barn on my homestead. I commenced breaking land, have raised fair average crops every year and now have 160 acres under cultivation. I have 7 horses, 70 cattle, wagons, sulky, binder, mowers, plows, my own blacksmith shop and all necessary farming implements. I have a fine stock ranch about 9 miles north of my farm with a good log house, barn 16x24, horse barn 25x30 and about 300 tons of hay. I am herding 250 cattle for others, for which I receive $4 per head a year. This is a good country for farming and stock raising and there is a large amount of fine land. JOSEF HARTINGER.

A Chicago Plasterer Earns a Farm and 175 Cattle.

BELFIELD, STARK COUNTY, N. D., Jan. 1, 1892.

I came from Smaalena, Norway, in the spring of 1872, and stopped in Chicago 10 years, living at Humboldt Park and working at my trade as a plasterer, and doing fairly well. In the year 1882 I moved to Belfield, North Dakota, and took up a homestead of 160 acres on free government land costing only $18, the government fee, on which I broke 18 acres. The next year I had a good crop which I sold at a good price. At first I bought a cow and later on bought a few more cows and some yearlings, which came from Minnesota. They are readily obtained here, as many are brought in by dealers, yearlings selling at an average of about $15, and cows about $25 each. Now I have about 175 cattle and 8 horses. I have to support a family of 9, which is quite an expense for clothing and schooling, but for all that I have done first rate. I have invested over $1,000 in mining stock in Montana silver and lead mines. Some of my friends who came from Chicago at the time I did are now in independent circumstances and they made it all here in farming and stock raising. This is one of the most favorable countries for successful stock raising that can be found anywhere. There are plenty of chances for others to do as well as we have in diversified farming and stock raising. L. CHRISTENSEN.

SUPERB TRAIN SERVICE.

The Northern Pacific train service is conceded by all travelers to be of the highest order of excellence, comprising fast express trains, equipped with vestibuled Pullman Palace Sleepers, vestibuled dining cars, the best of first and second class coaches, and also FREE COLONIST SLEEPERS AND PULLMAN TOURIST SLEEPERS FOR HOLDERS OF SECOND CLASS TICKETS.

CHAS. S. FEE, Gen. Pass. and Ticket Agt.

J. M. HANNAFORD, Gen. Traffic M[illegible]

W. S. MELLEN, General Manager.

T. F. OAKES, President.

Address: ST. PAUL, MINN.

GENERAL AND TRAVELING PASSENGER AGENTS.

The undersigned will send publications, and, if desired, Traveling Passenger Agents will visit and confer with parties in their respective districts in regard to the movement of intending settlers, and give information relative to the Northern Pacific country.